



AXS COMPANION

The **AXS Companion** is a free, open, online resource to help students navigate **Common App**. **Independent Educational Consultants Association (IECA)** volunteers created the content, and **Oregon State University's** Ecampus developed the platform with the goal of helping students achieve greater success in completing their college applications.

The **AXS Companion** and **Common App** can be opened and used side-by-side on a phone, tablet, or laptop. The **AXS Companion** contains 50+ step-by-step tutorial videos, walking students through Common App questions. Additionally, our financial aid experts provide videos to explain how to find affordable colleges and apply for merit & need-based aid.

The AXS Companion topics include:

- Overview of College Admissions
- How to Create a Common App Account
- How to Complete Profile
- How to Complete Family
- How to Complete Education
- Submitting Test Scores
- Completing Activities List
- Writing the Personal Essay
- Completing Courses & Grades
- Overview of My Colleges section
- Writing Supplemental Essays
- Tips for the "Why Us?" Essay
- FERPA Waiver
- Letters of Recommendation
- Submitting the Application
- Student Follow-up after Submitting Applications
- How Colleges Review Applications

Financial Aid

- Sticker Price v. Net Price
- Understanding Need-based Aid
- Understanding FAFSA and CSS Profile
- Understanding Loans
- Understanding Merit Aid
- Building a Smart College List

Writing Videos and Resources

- How to Write the Activities Section
- How to Write the Personal Essay
- How to Write the Supplemental Essays
- How to Write the Why Us Essay



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